Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 ARA-10 DHA-02 /125 W

-----140900Z 066864 /17

P R 140905Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1708
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS PARIS 10851

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR CG AO
SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: COMMENTS OF ANGOLAN FOREIGN
MINISTER

- 1. IN AN APRIL 13 PRESS CONFERENCE DURING A BRIEF STOPOVER IN PARIS, ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAOLO JORGE IS REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF THE SHABA CONFLICT WOULD LEAD TO AN AGGRESSION BY "IMPERIALIST FORCES" AGAINST ANGOLA, WITH VERY SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA. THE MOMENT MAY COME, HE SAID, WHEN THE ZAIRE REGIME WILL BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN POWER THANKS ONLY TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND WHEN ANGOLA WILL AGAIN BE ATTACKED. THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE ARE PREPARING FOR, WITHOUT SEEKING, THIS EVENTUALITY.
- 2. JORGE FELT THE DECISION OF THE "GISCARDIAN GOVERNMENT" TO SUPPORT MOBUTU REFLECTED THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES' DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE VIS-A-VIS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE US. HE REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER THE FRENCH INITIATIVE WOULD CAUSE A PROTEST BY LUANDA.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER DENIED ANY ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA, LABELED THE SITUATION AN INTERNAL REBELLION, AND SAID THAT THERE ARE NO ANGOLANS, NOR CUBANS, NOR SOVIETS IN SHABA. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT

KATANGAN GENDARMES LIVING IN ANGOLA HAD ORGANIZED THE REBELLION. HE SAID THAT LUANDA WISHED TO END KINSHASA'S "AGGRESSIVENESS" TOWARDS ANGOLA, CLAIMING THAT HIS COUNTRY HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE FOR A DIALOGUE WITH MOBUTU, BUT THAT ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN FEEDING TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, INVASIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS10851
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770129-0497

Format: TEL From: PARIS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770457/aaaabxlv.tel

Line Count: 69 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 4e3923a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2806544 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SHABA INVASION: COMMENTS OF ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, (JORGE, PAOLO)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e3923a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009